UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Forest Insect and Disease Management
P.O. Box 5895, Asheville, N.C. 28803

REPLY TO: 5230 - Evaluation
Report No. 78-1-4

November 10, 1977

SUBJECT: Southern Pine Beetle Evaluation, Uwharrie Ranger District, North Carolina

TO: George A. Olson, Supervisor, NF in NC

On October 17 and 18, a ground examination of the Uwharrie Ranger District was conducted by Iral Ragenovich, entomologist, Forest Insect and Disease Management, and R. M. Owen and Charles Price, District personnel. The ground check was conducted to determine the current status of southern pine beetle, Dendroctonus frontalis Zimm, on the Uwharrie Ranger District.

A portion of the spots examined were spots detected during the latest pre-suppression flight conducted by the District. A total of six spots, containing from 1 to 15 red and fading trees, were detected on that flight. Several spots located during ground surveillance were also checked. Altogether, seven spots were examined.

Results: None of the spots examined were currently infested with southern pine beetle. All spots were infested with black turpentine beetle, Dendroctonus terebrans Oliv., and/or Ips engraver beetles. Spots displayed such traditional characteristics as large pitch masses in the case of black turpentine beetle; and trees with either dying or partially red crowns scattered throughout an area in the case of Ips beetles. Examination of galleries beneath the bark confirmed the presence of these beetles. The only evidence of southern pine beetle was a gallery in one tree that appeared to have been constructed last spring. The lack of larval galleries suggested unsuccessful brood development. Some of the beetle spots occurred in areas where there was some site disturbance or a lightening struck tree. One fairly large spot in a shortleaf plantation contained approximately 100 infested trees scattered over about 30 acres. It contained both Ips and black turpentine beetles. Ips and black turpentine beetles are not usually considered economically damaging forest insect pests, however, occasionally infestations develop in high value areas such as recreation areas, seed orchards or plantations. If the beetle infestation in the plantation continues to grow the District may want to consider submitting a control project for that infestation.

The low population level of southern pine beetle on the Uwharrie Ranger District is a continuation of the declining population recorded last year, and reflects a decreasing population trend occurring throughout the southeastern range of the southern pine beetle.

Recommendations: Based on the low population levels on the District and the declining population trend throughout the southeast, it is recommended that the southern pine beetle control project for the Uwharrie Ranger District be discontinued.

Post Suppression Evaluation: Suppression efforts on the District mainly involved salvage. However, no salvage was conducted after January. Approximately 137 MBF and 134 CCF of sawtimber and pulpwood were salvaged. The District had reported problems with breakout in some of the salvaged areas. According to the 5200l report filed by the District no presuppression flights were made between September and August, FY 1977.

The natural decline of southern pine beetle populations is probably the most significant influencing factor in the suppression of the insect on the Uwharrie Ranger District and throughout the southeast.

If District personnel note an increase in southern pine beetle activity they should contact the Forest Insect and Disease Management office in Asheville. The FI&DM aerial survey team will conduct a detection flight on the Uwharrie Ranger District during the summer, 1978.

If there are any questions, please contact our office in Asheville.

for HAROLD W. FLAKE
Field Representative